

September 23, 2016

# City Council Newsletter



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### Park Watch Committee Releases New Report

The Park Watch Committee made up of representatives from Parks and Open Space, Recreation, Facilities and Police has just released the first Park Watch Report which covers the first and second quarters of 2016. The report shows illegal camping has increased nearly 200 percent in the last three years and that during this reporting period more than 4,650 bags of garbage and 2,000 needles were removed from parks, primarily along the riverfront.



This upward trend is also reflected in feedback received through recent online and intercept surveys. Illegal camping and the associated activities is consistently the highest concern among respondents. Staff, park users and even many homeless campers themselves report an increase in hostility and threats from more and more entrenched campers and people suffering from substance abuse and mental health issues in the parks.

In 2012, the Park Watch Committee was formed in order to share information and begin to better coordinate limited resources. The committee now meets monthly to review incidents and trends, share information and establish a strategic and collaborative response to these mounting issues. In 2014, a new park watch online reporting tool was developed, allowing users to easily report safety issues within parks. A partial listing of public concerns around illegal camping sent into park watch are also included in the report.

The Park Watch Committee has implemented several short and long-term response strategies including the Park Ambassadors pilot program, additional Police bike patrol, and private security officers in the park system. Collectively these initiatives have helped stem the tide of illicit activity and it is increasingly clear that a security presence and ongoing safety service in Eugene's public spaces is an essential piece of the solution.

The Eugene community, like many others across the nation, is grappling with increased illicit activities in our public spaces, particularly downtown and in the park system. Valuable resources have been redirected from daily operations toward addressing these sorts of activities but while staff and resources across the organization are indeed stretched thin – the Park Watch Committee is encouraged by the progress of a more coordinated response effort.

To view the Parks Watch Report please visit [eugene-or.gov/parkwatch](http://eugene-or.gov/parkwatch). For more information contact Parks and Open Space Marketing and Outreach Manager, [Kelly Darnell](#) at 541-682-4901.

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## Eugene Sunday Streets Returns This Sunday!

Looking to build off the record-breaking turnout in July, Eugene Sunday Streets will hold its final event of 2016. On Sunday, September 25, people will walk, roll, bike, and dance through several neighborhoods. The fun runs from noon to 4 p.m. on parts of 19th and 24th avenues and Hilyard and Agate streets.

The event, organized by the Public Works Department's Transportation Options Team, is intended to promote active transportation and healthy lifestyle choices. As people take advantage of the car-free route, they can enjoy different games, musical acts, and other fun entertainment along the way. There will also be activities for all ages at three different parks.



Cars will be able to cross the route at several designated locations, however volunteers will be on hand to direct traffic and encourage the walkers and riders. Drivers are encouraged to plan for detours and short delays.

The first Sunday Streets of the year saw record attendance with more than 6,000 people joining in on the fun. For more information on Eugene Sunday Streets, visit [www.eugene-or.gov/655](http://www.eugene-or.gov/655) or call Emily Farthing at 541-501-0390.



## Sustainable Homes Professional Course a Success

Eugene's first Sustainable Homes Professional (SHP) course concluded in June 2016. This six-month series is an accreditation program with a longstanding reputation for depth, applied learning, and outstanding quality.

SHP is a comprehensive, interactive, experience-driven education program for residential and multifamily building and design professionals looking to take their work to the next level of quality.

Instructor Bruce Sullivan of Base Zero guided participants through the entire spectrum of high performance buildings and shared practical insights in the following six modules:



- Building science fundamentals and moisture management
- High performance wall and roof assemblies
- HVAC product selection and integrated system design
- Water conservation techniques
- Indoor air quality, green material considerations, and health impacts
- Local green/energy efficiency building programs and incentives

Each module provided participants with an opportunity to gain valuable insights and eliminate common barriers to high performance building techniques. Eugene now has a core group of SHPs, including two architects, one engineer, three contractors, one real estate appraiser, and one plans examiner.

Funding and incentives for this program were made possible by the City of Eugene's Green Building program. For more information, contact [Stephanie Scafa](#) at 541-682-5652.

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## Food Waste Curbside Collection Pilot Launches in Friendly Neighborhood This Week



Eugene's first curbside residential composting pilot will begin this week in a section of Friendly neighborhood. The pilot area includes about 400 residents who live in the area of 24th Place to the north, 29th Avenue to the South, Charnelton Street to the west, and Amazon Parkway to the east. Residents will receive kitchen collection pails to conveniently collect their food scraps this Thursday, September 22nd. These food scraps can go into their yard debris bin instead of the garbage can for collection. Once collected, the material will be turned into Love Food Not Waste® compost.

Each year, Eugene tosses 40 million pounds of food into the local landfill. Half of this food waste comes from homes. To reduce the amount of food waste going to the landfill, the Waste Prevention & Green Building team is launching a two-year

residential curbside food waste collection pilot program. The program will make it easier for residents in single-family homes to recycle their food waste through home yard debris service already provided by garbage haulers. Usable food waste needs to be free of non-compostable material like plastic, metal, and other non-food or non-plant materials. To keep the food waste and yard debris "clean," pilot participants are asked to include **only** food waste and yard debris in the bin.

Throughout the course of the pilot, residents will have a chance to give input and discuss what is going well and what could be improved. This valuable input will help the City create a food waste collection program that works for everyone.

For more information, please contact Waste Prevention Analyst, [Allie Breyer](#), 541-682-5224.

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## Links to Eugene City Council Resources

### [Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)



### [Public Meetings Calendar](#)   [Tentative Council Agenda](#)

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